

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN  
COUSINEAU

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, Representative GEORGE MILLER, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, and I rise today in honor of Ann Cousineau, director of Solano County Library for the last 15 years. As her colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of her life, we ask all of our colleagues to join us in saluting this outstanding public servant and supporter of free and public libraries.

Transforming a library system that was teetering on the brink of a financial abyss into one of the premier libraries in the state, Ann did this not by "shushing" exuberant voices and library users, but by embracing the need to bring libraries into the 21st Century. Her legacy is a system of eight libraries that are central to lifelong learning in the communities that they serve, and in changing lives every day.

Ann Cousineau's hard work and vision benefit our next generation as well as generations to come. Three new libraries were built during her tenure. These new library buildings, along with renovations of the five existing buildings, are part of a 20-year facilities master plan to build and renovate libraries in the cities served by Solano County Library.

In 1999, Ann Cousineau served as co-chair of the statewide initiative for the successful passage of Proposition 14, a \$350 million statewide library construction bond act. The Fairfield Cordelia Library, which opened in 2006, is one of 45 libraries throughout California that were built with the help of these funds. The next year the California Library Association named her Member of the Year for her achievements in promoting state legislation benefitting libraries.

During her time as director, the Library has developed a telephone assistance center and an award-winning Web site with 24/7 reference services. Streamlined operations, self service functions and a staff trained to handle everything from story-time to computer class are just a few examples of a "new way of doing business" pioneered by Solano County Library and adopted by other libraries throughout California.

Madam Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to our friend and dedicated public servant. We ask all of our colleagues to join with us in wishing Ann continued success and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING GILBERT  
ALVAREZ

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gilbert Alvarez on the occasion of his retirement from the Hansen Dam Aquatic Center. Mr. Alvarez is being honored by his many colleagues, family and friends for his dedicated career and longtime commitment to the City of Los Angeles.

A resident of Southern California, Gilbert began his career with the City of Los Angeles, at the Department of Recreation and Parks, in the intermittent part-time position of Recreation Assistant. During his eleven years as a part-time employee, he held a myriad of jobs in West Wilshire, El Sereno, Yosemite Pools, served as a supply manager for the Metro Region, and held the positions of Pool Lifeguard and Pool Manager.

On May 23, 1999 he was selected as the first Aquatic Facility Manager in the City and the first supervisor of the newly rebuilt Hansen Dam Aquatic Center.

During Gilbert's tenure as the Manager of the Hansen Dam Aquatic Center, his diligence and oversight of the pool helped detect a leak that would have cost taxpayers millions of dollars had it gone unnoticed.

Furthermore, Mr. Alvarez created the annual Hansen Dam Triathlon, which introduced an activity that has greatly benefitted the community. Among his other achievements during the past thirty-seven years of service to the City of Los Angeles, Gilbert revived the Open Water Junior Lifeguard Program at Hansen Dam and Cabrillo Beach.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Gilbert Alvarez a happy and productive retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE ATHLETIC  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF KIM MY AND  
MY LINH LI AT ST. FRANCIS  
DESALES HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of two students at St. Francis DeSales High School in Columbus, Ohio. Kim My Li and My Linh Li, who not only are teammates, but sisters, recently won the Ohio Division II State Championship in tennis doubles.

The Li sisters won their championship tennis match in remarkable fashion, playing to a marathon score of 6-2 6-7(7-9), 6-2. This year's tournament was My Linh's first and Kim My's third, and through hours of practice, and true demonstration of teamwork, these sisters were able to end their season on a high note.

This accomplishment attests not only to the sisters' commendable display of commitment, but also to the outstanding athletic department at DeSales High School. I'm proud to congratulate Kim My and My Linh and join with them in celebrating their historic State Championship title!

A TRIBUTE TO MS. JAVANNI  
AGARD

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Javanni Agard, born July 15, 1991 to Valencia Thorne and Darrelle Agard.

Javanni is a graduate of the Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice. This small set-

ting has worked to her advantage making it easy to obtain exceptional grades and learn how to be professional in the business world. During her sophomore year of high school, she was given the opportunity to participate in an internship at The Brooklyn District Attorney's Office. She worked as an intern for paralegals, assisting them with paperwork, filing, copying and other forms of clerical work. However, this internship opened her eyes to things she had only seen on television. She was able to visit the Supreme Court and view cases, learning what it was like to be a lawyer in the courtroom.

During her junior year of high school, she was assigned to help out in the Red Hook Senior Home and at an organization called Furnish a Future. Taking part in these organizations helped her to understand what it meant to help someone else, that it's not always about self, but helping those in need.

Javanni is a member of Berean Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, where Rev. Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr. is her Pastor. She participated in the Ministry of Sacred Dance and the Girl Scouts.

Javanni currently attends John Jay College of Criminal Justice as a first year student. During her college experience, she hopes to participate in internships and possibly take part in study abroad. After her success at John Jay, she will attend Law School.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Javanni Agard.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAM HAMRA  
OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam and June Hamra of Springfield, Missouri. An attorney by professional training, Sam Hamra has been a community and political activist for many years. Sam and June are also philanthropists and civic and community leaders in many worthy causes.

In late October, Sam and June were honored by Wendy's International with the R. David Thomas Founder's Award. The Founder's Award is Wendy's International's highest honor and is presented annually to its outstanding franchisee who best embodies the common-sense business values of Wendy's founder Dave Thomas.

In being honored with Wendy's top franchisee recognition, Hamra and his restaurants were cited for their excellent operations, strong marketing plans, and the value placed on employee development. Another aspect of the award is the support the Hamras give to local civic and charitable activities. In recent years, Hamra has directed the modernization of all 28 restaurants in their Wendy's of Missouri group. Trademarks of Hamra's restaurants are strong management, low employee turnover and increased productivity and store sales. These are not just the restaurant's characteristics, but also reflect the owner's outlook and business acumen.

Sam opened his first Wendy's restaurant on March 15, 1976, in Springfield, Missouri, near the intersection of Sunshine & Campbell. The 206th Wendy's restaurant in the United States,

it's still in operation today. His Rolla restaurant was selected as one of the top 14 Wendy's restaurants out of 6,600 in the world for an unprecedented two consecutive years.

Wendy's of Missouri has eight locations in Springfield, three in Branson, two in Jefferson City and Columbia, and locations in Bolivar, Ozark, Nixa, Lebanon, St. Robert, Rolla, Fulton, Lake Ozark, Clinton, Republic, Sedalia, Harrisonville, and Warrensburg.

Congratulations to Sam and June for a job well done.

—IN HONOR OF ALBERT CASWELL  
AND HIS INSPIRATIONAL POETIC  
TRIBUTE TO STAFF SGT. EARL  
GRANVILLE, OF SCRANTON,  
PENNSYLVANIA, WHO WAS  
WOUNDED IN ACTION IN THE DE-  
FENSE OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Albert Caswell, of Street, Maryland, who is employed as a U.S. Capitol tour guide, and SSG Earl Granville, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, a member of the U.S. Army 109th Field Artillery, Pennsylvania National Guard, who was severely wounded during deployment in Afghanistan.

Mr. Caswell met Sergeant Granville while doing volunteer work at Walter Reed Army Hospital. Mr. Caswell was deeply impressed with Sergeant Granville's devotion to military duty and subsequently wrote a poem to express his appreciation for the sacrifices citizens like Sergeant Granville make in the defense of our Nation and the freedoms we hold dear.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Caswell and Sergeant Granville. As a soldier, Sergeant Granville represents our Nation's finest and most courageous citizens, willing to venture into harm's way to protect this nation and ensure that our liberties survive and flourish. And Mr. Caswell represents the gratitude that we all share for our men and women in uniform. May we all be inspired by these two fine Americans.

The poem that Mr. Caswell wrote follows:

STANDING GUARD—IN HONOR OF SSG EARL GRANVILLE, AN AMERICAN HERO, THE PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD, THE UNITED STATES ARMY, 28TH ID—1/109TH/INF—103RDAR

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

Standing Guard! Standing Strong!  
Standing Hard! Standing long!  
On Guard!  
A band of brothers another world away, such  
burdens bear . . .  
As into the face of death, they so stare!  
As they Stand Guard!  
Stand Strong!  
As the word Hero to them so belongs . . .  
And if ever I have a son, I but pray he could  
be like this fine one . . .  
Who will stand?  
And who will fall?  
And who will but give their all?  
Who will give up their fine lives, and strong  
arms and legs so freedom can thrive?

For that's only how freedom is made!  
By only all those who stay, And Stand  
Guard!  
For as long as our nation has been . . .  
There have always been, such splendid men  
. . .  
Men, who must Stand Guard!  
Men of honor, with hearts of courage full  
. . . of steel over evil rule . . .  
Men such as Earl Granville, from that great  
state of Pennsylvania so true . . .  
Men of such faith, who death so view . . .  
Who for all of us go off to war . . .  
But, for this our Country Tis of Thee . . .  
such burdens bore!  
All for our freedom, to insure . . .  
As They Stand Guard . . .  
With but their fine hearts of courage, pure!  
Standing strong, all the more . . .  
Who but with only their most heroic hearts  
. . .

Right all of those wrongs, as is their part!  
And all of the ones, who come back home  
. . .  
Without arms and legs, as to them such  
beautiful hearts belong . . .  
As we Witness their most heroic songs.  
Teaching us all how faith stands strong.  
As up from the ashes they do rise . . .  
With but tears of valor all in their eyes . . .  
As but the full measure of the word hero  
comprised . . .  
Standing Strong, while blessing all our lives  
. . .  
As they reach us . . . as they teach us . . .  
As to great heights their heart's beseech us  
. . .  
As on this day Earl, you so teach us . . .  
Even the Angels up in heaven, Wipe the tears  
from their eyes . . .  
For in life, what do we so stand for?  
And for what, will we so rise?  
To face death, when all upon us so much re-  
lies . . .  
While, Standing Guard all in time . . .  
So but our children might but find a better  
life realized . . .  
All so they will not have to fight. . .  
All so that they might sleep peacefully this  
night . . .  
Because, somewhere out there . . .

### A TRIBUTE TO MARK E. EVANS

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mark E. Evans who was born in Brent, England on September 5, 1968. At the age of twelve, he and his siblings migrated to the United States to live with his parents in Queens Village, New York. He attended PS 109 Junior High School and Newtown High School.

Following his High School graduation in 1987, Mr. Evans enlisted in the United States Army. He completed Basic Training at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, as well as his advance military occupational skill training as an Interior Electrician. While on active duty, he was stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, South Korea and Fort McClellan, Alabama. He also served six months in the Middle East during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In August 1991, after spending four years on active duty, Mark returned home to Queens Village and attended York College in Queens while maintaining his attachment to the Military as a member of the Army Reserve. He met

his wife Sonia through a mutual friend in December 1992 and on August 17, 1997 they were married.

Mark worked full time, attended college and was a Weekend Warrior with the Army Reserve. His hard work and dedication paid off upon receipt of a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in 1998. In 1999, Mark started the process of becoming a New York City Police Officer. By October 2000, he graduated from the New York City Police Academy, and he was assigned to the 30th Precinct in Harlem. Following 9/11, he was transferred to Manhattan Traffic Task Force, where he would better service the department by effectively managing ground zero. To this day, he continues to patrol the streets of Manhattan.

In his continuation of military service, he served with the 344th Combat Support Hospital in Flushing, New York and 445th Quartermaster Company in Trenton, New Jersey. He was deployed to Iraq where he served one year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is currently serving with the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion in Danbury, Connecticut as the First Sergeant for Headquarters Company. He is expected to deploy to Afghanistan in 2010.

With twenty-two years of military service and ten years as a New York City Police Officer, he is committed to improving our society by serving our nation both domestically and abroad. His dedication to duty, as a father of two (Gordan and Nyah), husband, Soldier and Police Officer is unwavering.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Mark E. Evans.

### THE ENVIRONMENTAL HORMONE DISRUPTION ACT AND THE WOM- EN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DISEASE PREVENTION ACT

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today, I'm proud to reintroduce the Environmental Hormone Disruption Act and the Women's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Act.

Consider for a moment that a women's lifetime risk of breast cancer is 1 in 7 today, compared to 1 in 22 in the 1940s—over half of the cases are unexplained. And, over the last 30 years, the U.S. has seen a steep rise in the occurrence of childhood cancers, testicular cancer, juvenile diabetes, attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, thyroid disorders, cognitive impairment, and autoimmune disorders. Autism cases alone rose 210 percent between 1987 and 1998.

About 100,000 chemicals are registered for use in the United States. However, 90 percent of these have never been fully tested for their impact on human health. Scientists have found that exposure to these synthetic chemicals disrupts hormone function and contributes to increased incidences of diseases. We already know the tragic impact that diethylstilbestrol, or DES, has had on the daughters of women who took this anti-miscarriage drug prescribed until 1971.

While the evidence is mounting that there is an association between these chemicals and hormone disruption, research remains limited,